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Bara no tameni v11 ch 42

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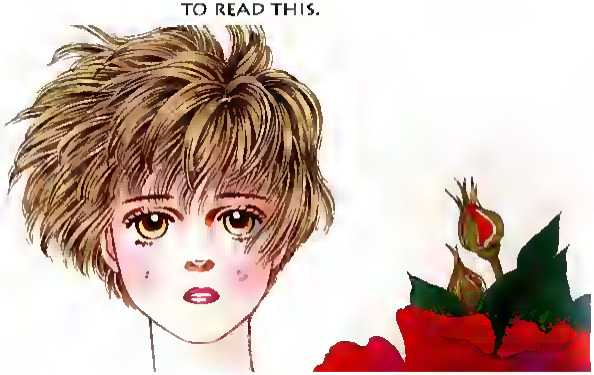

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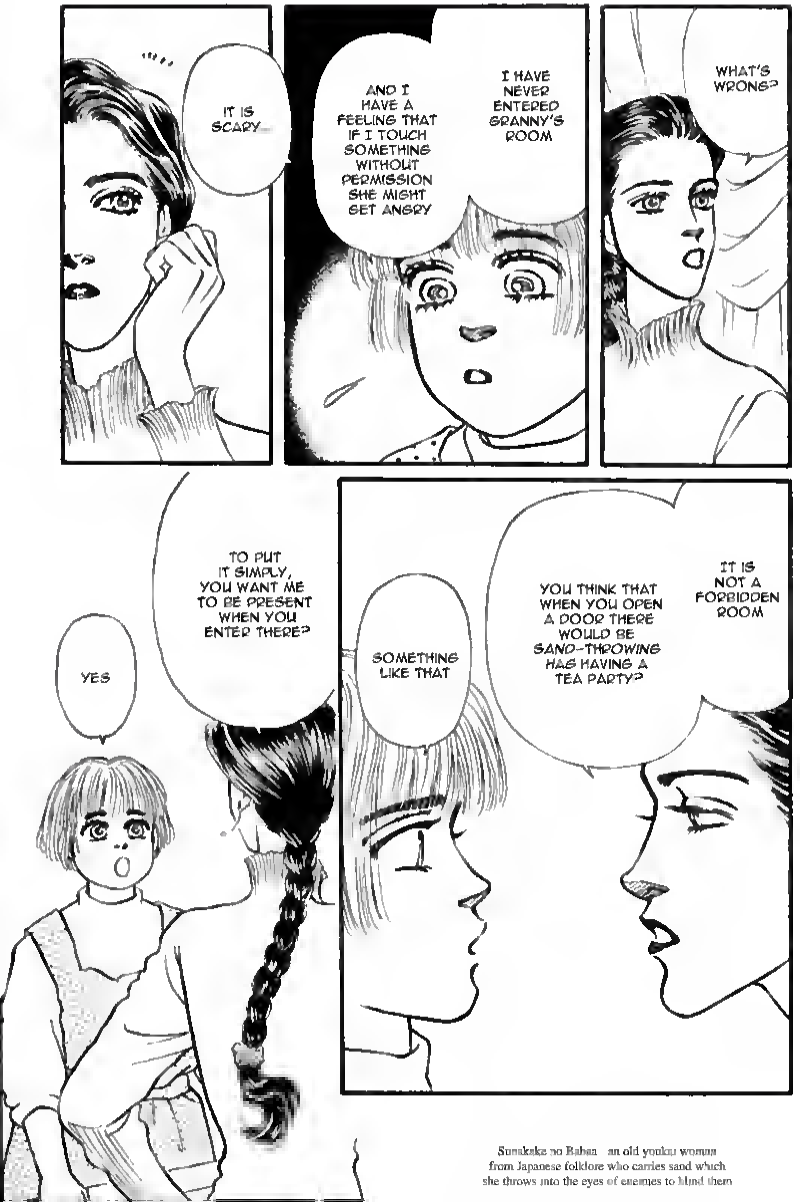
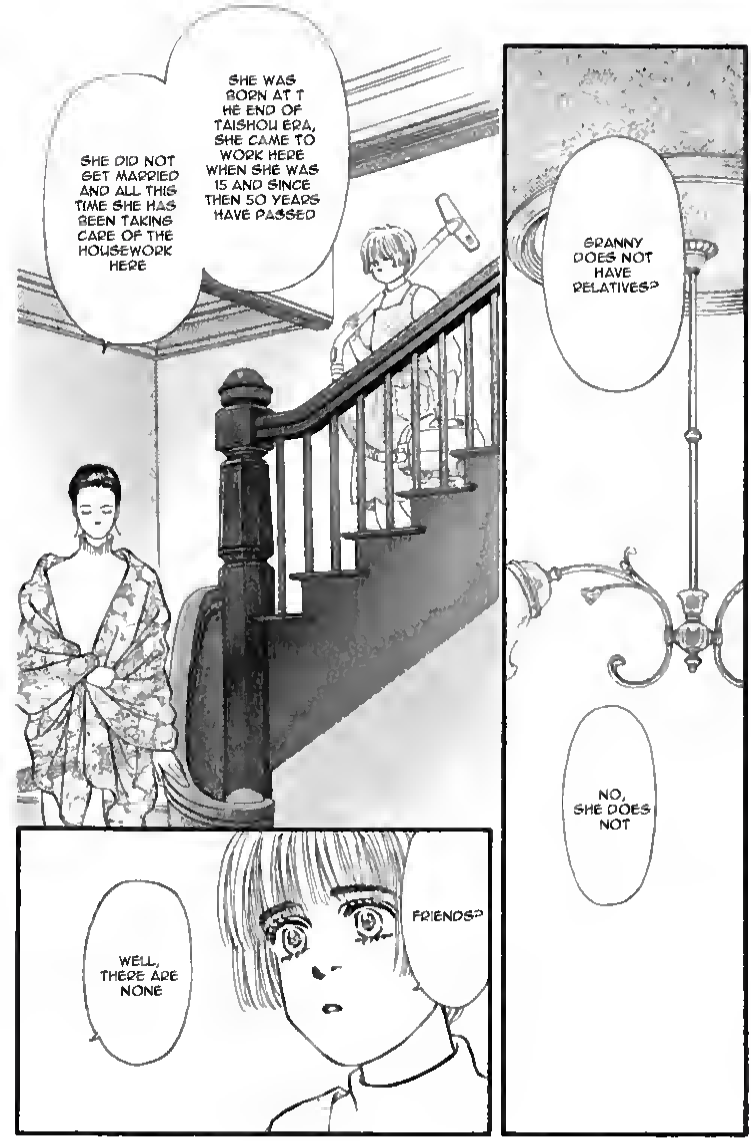
# 第42話 SUNNY ESSAY

Suddenly autumn has come
In mountains in the middle of Hokkaido it has already been snowing
Japanese rowan is completely red

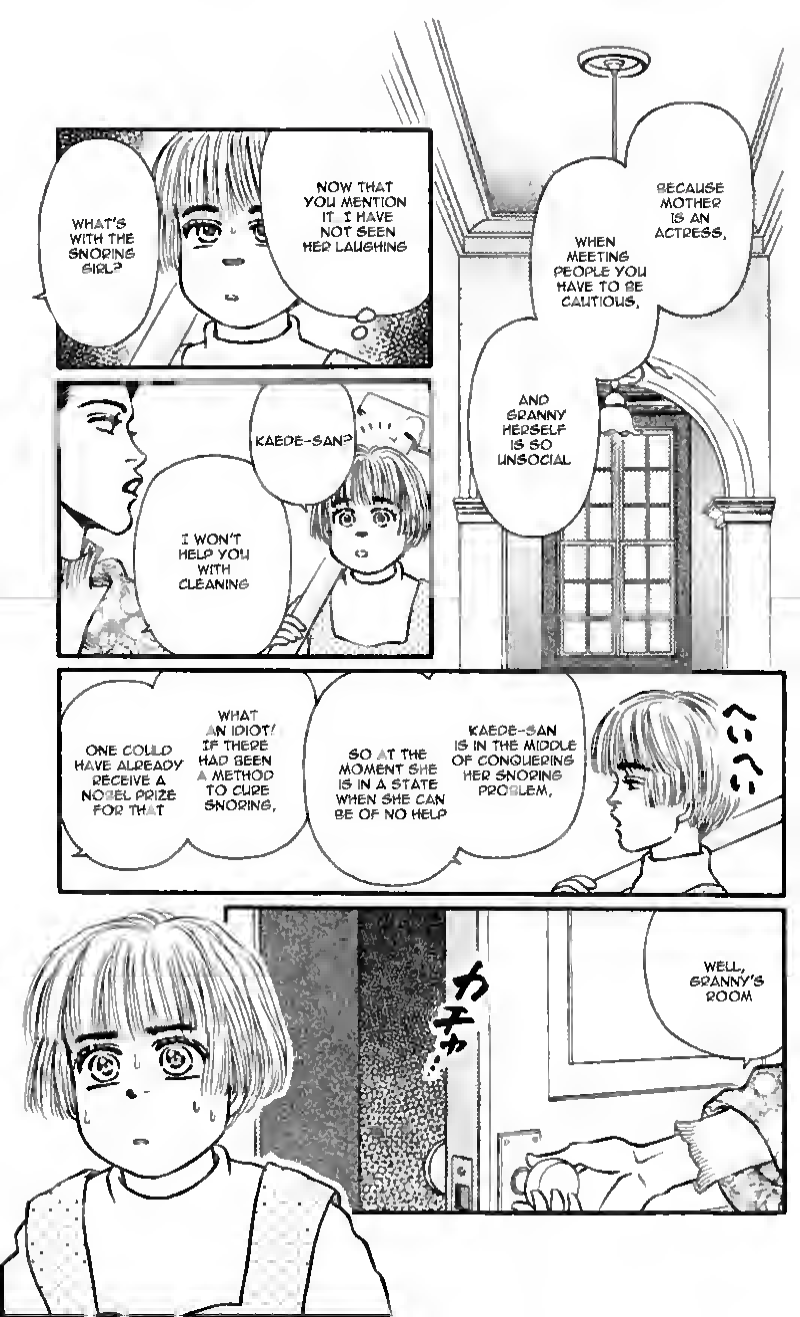
YES
IS IT OK TO CLEAN IT, I WONDER?
GRANNY'S ROOM?
YES
AND IF YOU DO IT?
IT HAS BEEN TWO MONTHS SINCE HER HOSPITALIZA-TION
I KNOW THE ROOM IS IN ORDER, BUT
PROBABLY DUST HAS BEEN GRADUALLY PILING

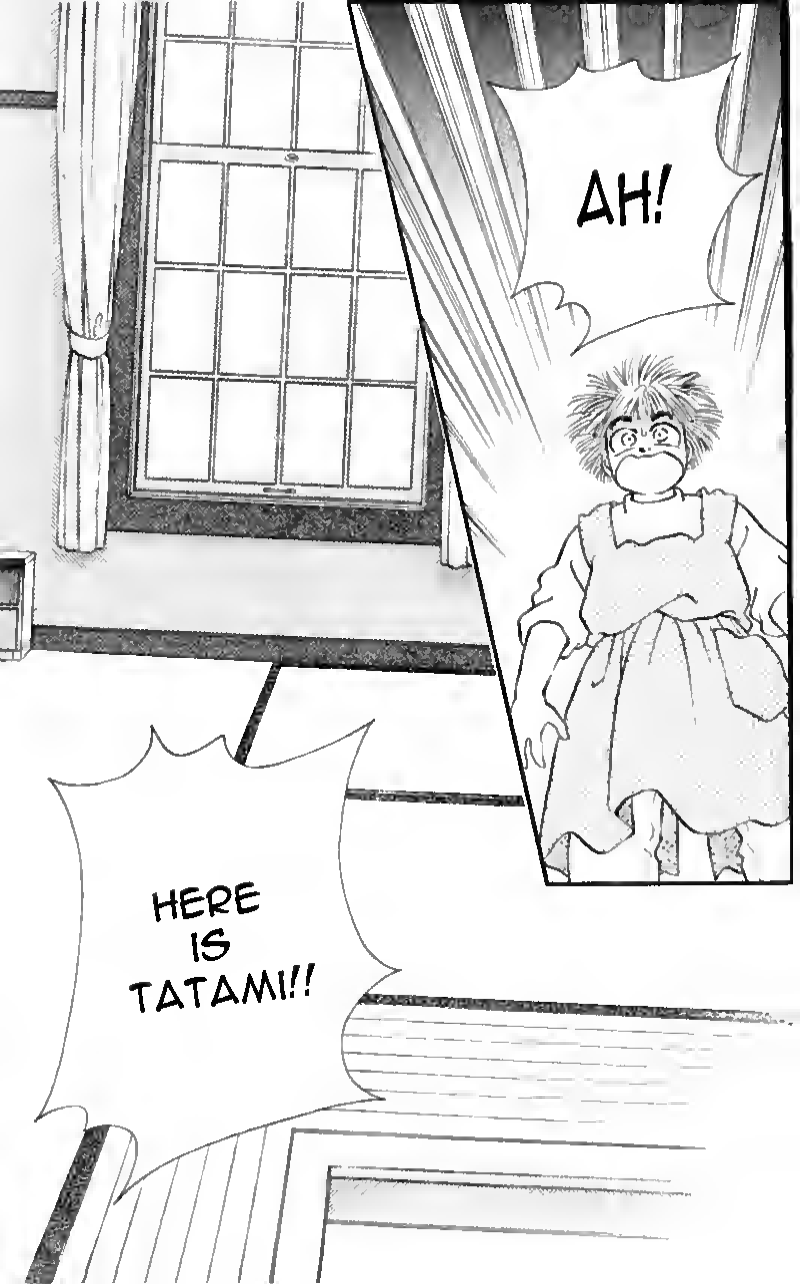

IT IS SCARY...
I HAVE NEVER ENTERED GRANNY'S ROOM
AND I HAVE A FEELING THAT IF I TOUCH SOMETHING WITHOUT PERMISSION SHE MIGHT GET ANGRY
WHAT'S WRONG?
IT IS NOT A FORBIDDEN ROOM
YOU THINK THAT WHEN YOU OPEN A DOOR THERE WOULD BE SAND-THROWING HAG HAVING A TEA PARTY?
SOMETHING LIKE THAT
TO PUT IT SIMPLY, YOU WANT ME TO BE PRESENT WHEN YOU ENTER THERE?
YES

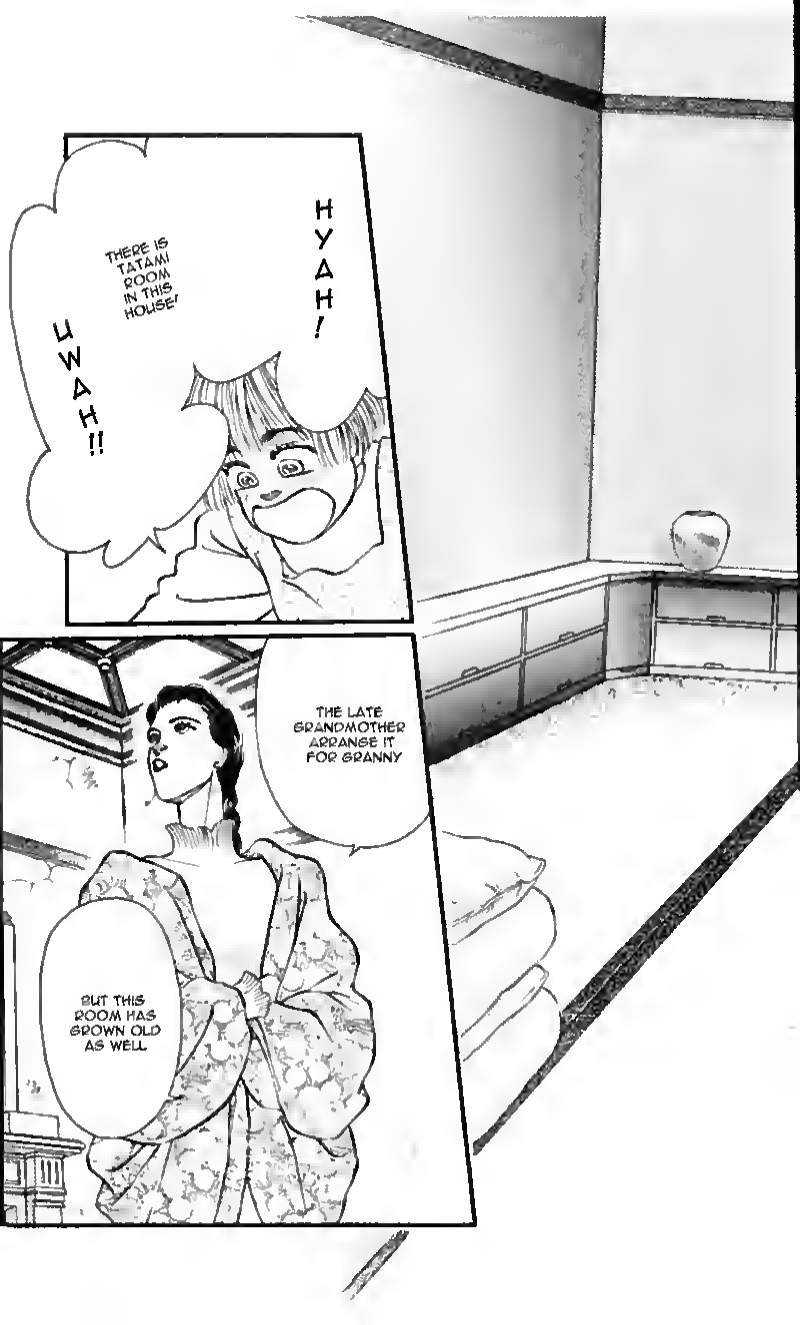
Sunakake no Baban  an old youkai woman
from Japanese folklore who carries sand which
she throws into the eyes of enemies to blind them


SHE WAS BORN AT T HE END OF TAISHOU ERA, SHE CAME TO WORK HERE WHEN SHE WAS 15 AND SINCE THEN 50 YEARS HAVE PASSED
SHE DID NOT GET MARRIED AND ALL THIS TIME SHE HAS BEEN TAKING CARE OF THE HOUSEWORK HERE
GRANNY DOES NOT HAVE RELATIVES?
NO, SHE DOES NOT
FRIENDS?
WELL, THERE ARE NONE

*Taisho era (1912.7.30-1926.12.25)


NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT, I HAVE NOT SEEN HER LAUGHING
WHAT'S WITH THE SNORING GIRL?
KAEDE-SAN?
I WON'T HELP YOU WITH CLEANING
BECAUSE MOTHER IS AN ACTRESS,
WHEN MEETING PEOPLE YOU HAVE TO BE CAUTIOUS,
AND GRANNY HERSELF IS SO UNSOCIAL
へぇ?
KAEDE-SAN IS IN THE MIDDLE OF CONQUERING HER SNORING PROBLEM,
SO AT THE MOMENT SHE IS IN A STATE WHEN SHE CAN BE OF NO HELP
WHAT AN IDIOT! IF THERE HAD BEEN A METHOD TO CURE SNORING,
ONE COULD HAVE ALREADY RECEIVE A NOBEL PRIZE FOR THAT
WELL, GRANNY'S ROOM
カチャ


AH!
HERE IS TATAMI!!


HYAH!
THERE IS TATAMI ROOM IN THIS HOUSE!
UWAH!!
THE LATE GRANDMOTHER ARRANGE IT FOR GRANNY
BUT THIS ROOM HAS GROWN OLD AS WELL

GYAH, SOMETHING FELL!
Clap
Roll
KATAN
SO FIRST OF ALL I WILL DRY OFF THE FUTON AND THEN CLEAN THE ROOM WITH VACUUM CLEANER
LET'S SEE, IT IS BAD TO MESS AROUND,
学校
組 花屋敷 美芙さん
School Class
Hanayashiki Fuyou-san
UWAH, I'M GRATEFUL FOR THE TATAMI!
IT'S NOT BROKEN!!

EHH! IT'S FUYOU-SAN!
FROM THE FIFTH GRADE?!
CUTE!
EVEN FUYOU-SAN WAS IN SUCH LOVELY AGE
WHAT'S WITH THIS "EVEN"?
UWAH! ESSAY!
UNBELIEVABLE! FUYOU-SAN'S ESSAY!?
YES, YES IF YOU UNDERSTOOD THIS, START THE CLEANING
HAD I FOUND TSUCHINOKO, I WOULDN'T BE SO SURPRISED

Tsuchinoko- literally translating to "hammer's spawn," is a legendary snake-like cryptid from Japan

WHAT? WHAT?
[MY MOTHER]
*Dash
. . . . . .
. . . . . .

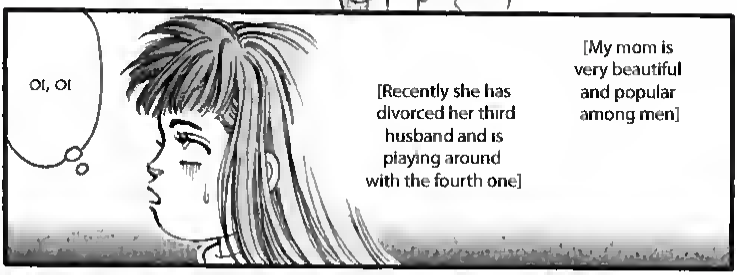
THAT GRANNY SHOULD NOT HAVE KEPT THIS THING
THIS
NEWSPAPER ASKED LOCAL SCHOOLERS TO WRITE ESSAY ABOUT [MY MOTHER] AND THEN PUBLISHED
ESSAYS OF TWO SCHOOLERS FROM EACH SCHOOL
AH, IT WAS SOMETHING LIKE A SCHOOL CONTEST?
I DON'T KNOW ABOUT OTHERS,
BUT IN OUR SCHOOL TEACHERS DESIGNATED TWO KIDS GOOD AT WRITING ESSAYS
ENOUGH WITH THIS ESSAY
WHAT ABOUT CLEANING?
I WILL DO IT
BUT I WANT TO HEAR MORE

OK
I DON'T MIND TELLING YOU,
BUT I WON'T HELP WITH CLEANING
[MY MOTHER?]
ANOTHER ONE IS SATOU-SAN FROM CLASS 1
IT'S ALRIGHT IF YOU WRITE AS ALWAYS WHAT YOU THINK
What is alright? I wanted to ask

[That's why I have never heard her telling me "Have a safe trip" or "Welcome home"]

[In the morning she is the last to wake up, then she gets smartly dressed and goes to play around]

[I have never eaten my mom's cooking]


OI, OI
[Recently she has divorced her third husband and is playing around with the fourth one]
[My mom is very beautiful and popular among men]

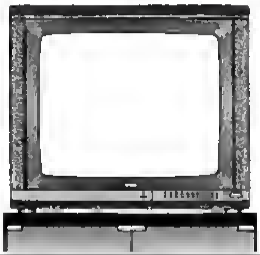
STOP RUSHING ME ALL DAY LONG
SOMETHING LIKE THAT
LIKE WHAT?
IF IT WERE ME, I WOULD WRITE ALL ABOUT MY MOM NON-STOP
WHY NOT JUST WRITE THE TRUTH?
I HAVE THIS ALL DAY LONG!
"QUICKLY GO TO SLEEP"
"BATH IS GOING TO GET COLD"
"DON'T YOU HAVE CRAM SCHOOL TODAY?"
"HAVE YOU DONE THE HOMEWORK?"
"LOOK, YOU ARE GOING TO BE LATE"
"HURRY UP AND EAT YOUR MEALS"
"WAKE UP QUICKLY"
THAT'S RUDE! YOU ARE TOO HASTY YOURSELF!
IN OTHER WORDS, YOU ARE A BLOCKHEAD

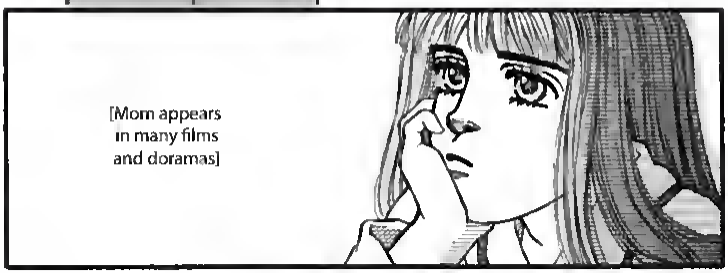
[My mom's favorite phases are]
IN ANY CASE I'D LIKE TO HER TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT THAT FAVORITE PHRASE OF [QUICKLY, QUICKLY]
I WISH I HAVE NEVER GIVEN BIRTH TO YOU!
GET OUT OF MY SIGHT!!
AS IF I COULD WRITE THIS

[My mom
is an actress]

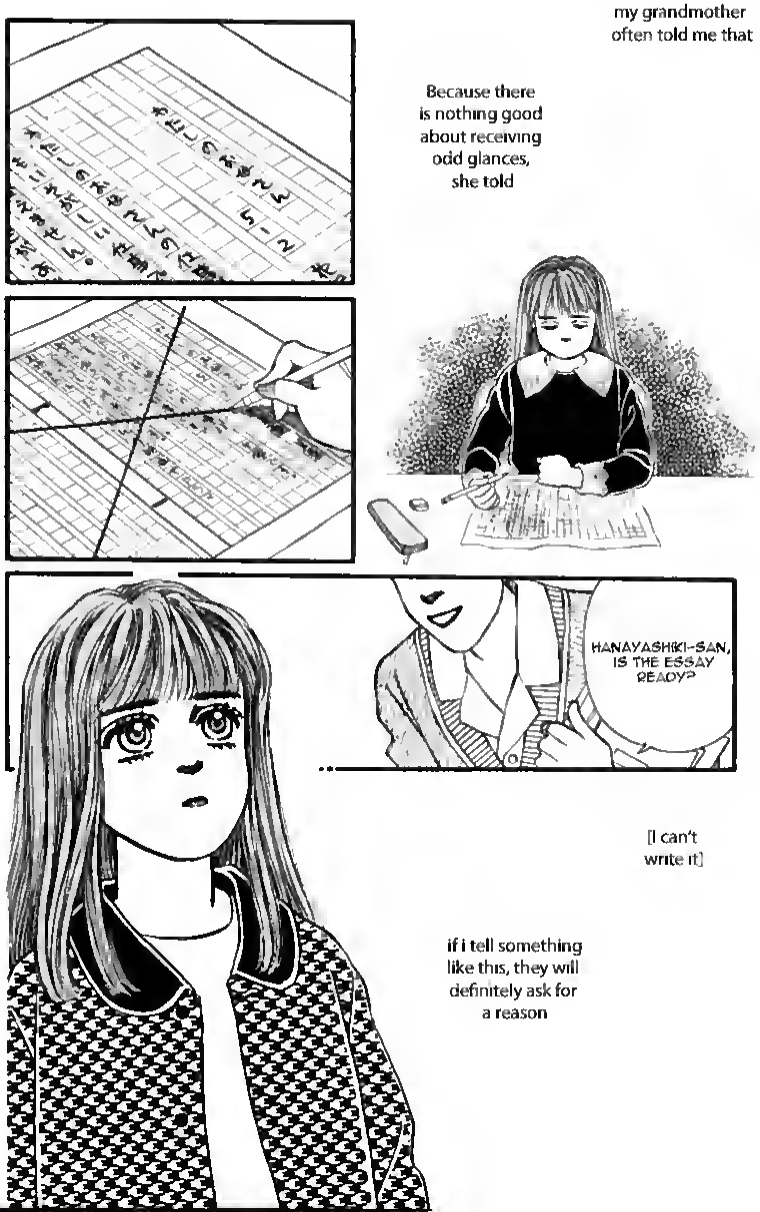
[She is very
busy at work,
so I rarely see her]

[But I have TV]





Eh?
This child says she was chosen as the head of class
Listen, aunty
[the voice is my mom's voice]
[because though the clothes and hairstyles are different,]
You are great
Is it ok for a parent like me to be happy!?
Really great


If possible i should try not to tell others that mom is actress, my grandmother often told me that
Because there is nothing good about receiving odd glances, she told
HANAYASHIKI-SAN, IS THE ESSAY READY?
[I can't write it]
if i tell something like this, they will definitely ask for a reason

That if compare mom with other mothers,

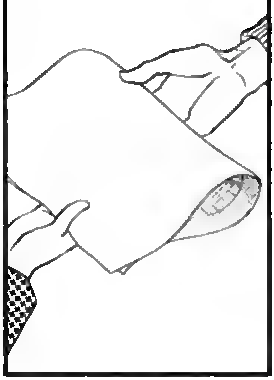
there is absolutely nothing motherly about her

As if I could tell the reason!

In the end any reason will haul out the most shameful thing for me

That[I imitate being a daughter]

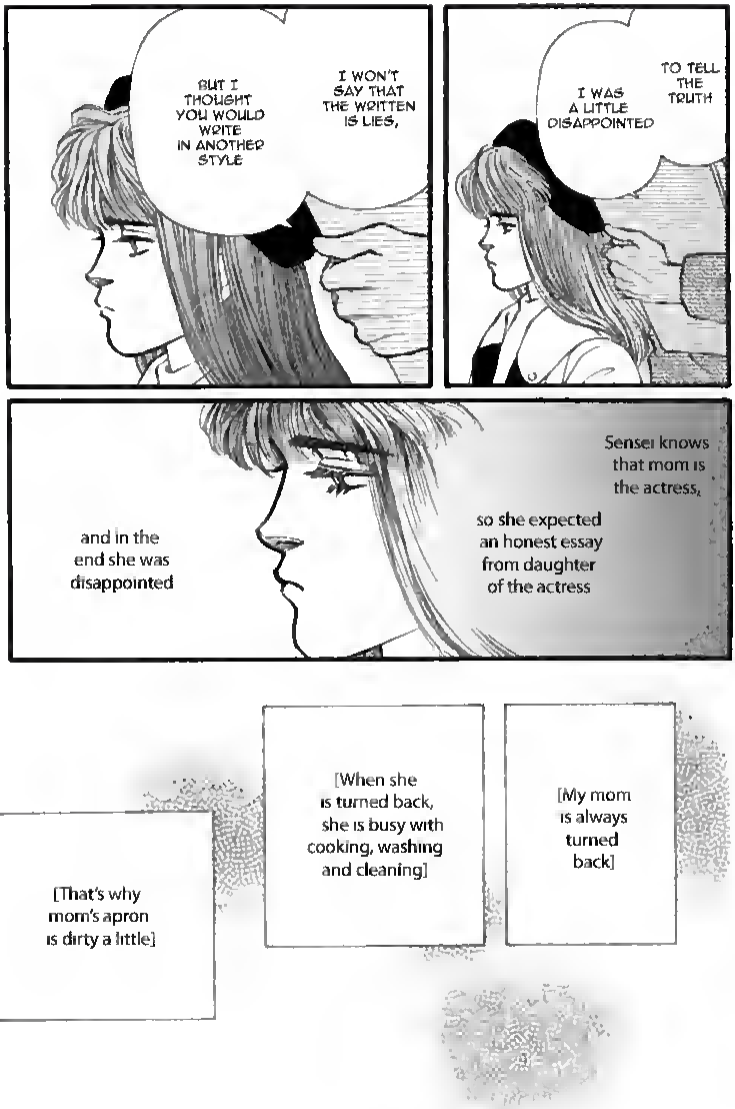
That I don't know what [a mother] should be



[That I'm not
loved by my
own mom]

I HAVE READ THE NEWSPAPER!
I ALSO SAW IT WITH YOUR PHOTO!
That's great
IF I HAD KNOWN THAT IT WOULD BE PUBLISHED IN A NEWSPAPER, I WOULD HAVE WRITTEN AN ESSAY MYSELF
but essays are boring
IT USUALLY BRINGS AIR OF SELF-IMPORTANCE, BUT THERE IS NOTHING SPECIAL ABOUT IT
HEY, YOU!
BUT SATOU-SAN FROM CLASS 1 WAS GREAT
Ohh
(AT NIGHT I THINK ABOUT MOM'S LONELINESS)
SHE WROTE
SPEAK OF THE DEVIL, THERE IS HER
I READ YOUR ESSAY WE BOTH HAVE WORKED HARD

HANA-YASHIKI-SAN
SHE DID, NASTY GIRL!
HEY... RIGHT NOW DIDN'T SHE MAKE "HUMPH!" FACE?
AH, SENSEI
IT WAS AN HONEST ESSAY, REALLY WRITTEN BY A CHILD
WHAT DID YOUR MOTHER SAY?
I THINK SHE HAS NOT READ IT YET

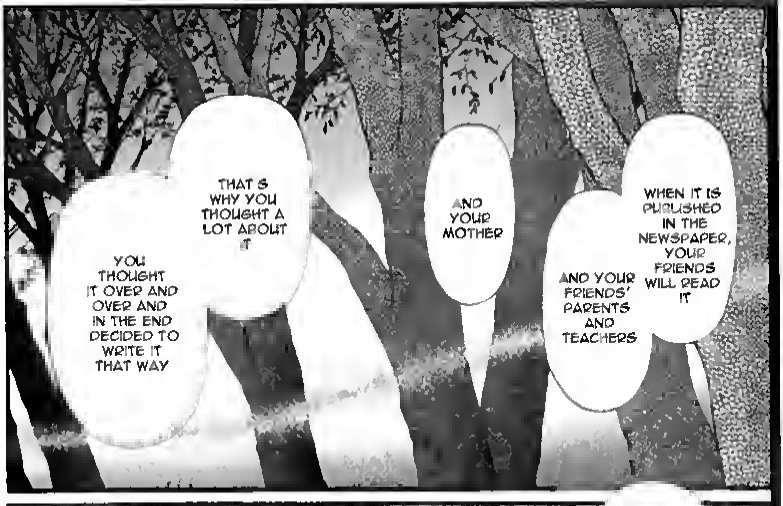

BUT I THOUGHT YOU WOULD WRITE IN ANOTHER STYLE
I WON'T SAY THAT THE WRITTEN IS LIES,
I WAS A LITTLE DISAPPOINTED
TO TELL THE TRUTH
and in the end she was disappointed
so she expected an honest essay from daughter of the actress
Sensei knows that mom is the actress,
[That's why mom's apron is dirty a little]
[When she is turned back, she is busy with cooking, washing and cleaning]
[My mom is always turned back]

FUYOU'S ESSAY?
NO WAY! I HOPE THAT KID DIDN'T WRITE SOMETHING STRANGE!
AH
WHAT IS IT? ISN'T IT ABOUT GRAN?
HEY, YOU
WHAT IS THE MEANING OF THIS?

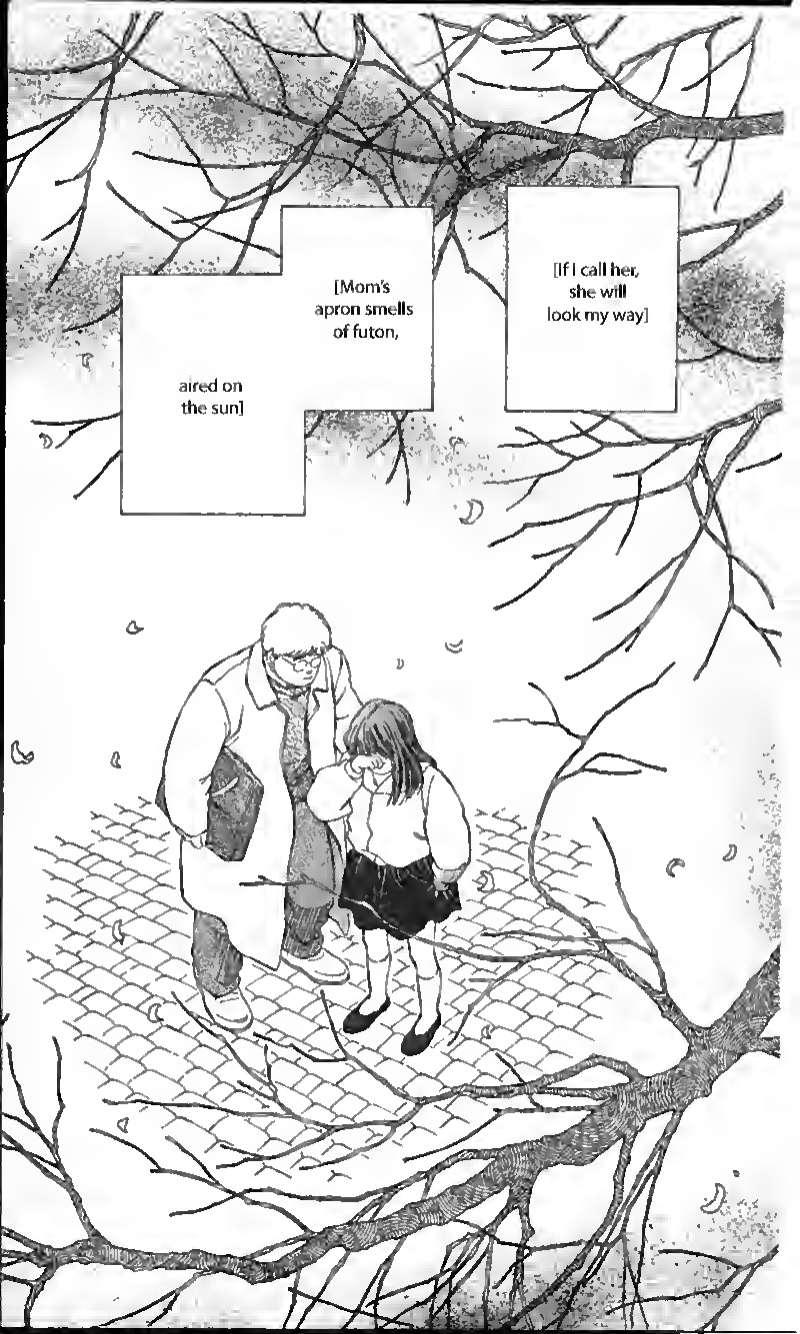
I have not seen mom for a year
EVEN THOUGH I DO NOT DO THE HOUSEWORK,
THAT'S NOT THE REASON TO WRITE SOMETHING INSINUATING
IF PEOPLE WHO KNOW ME, READ THIS, THEY WILL UNDERSTAND THAT'S ALL LIES AT ONCE
At times like this I should say "Welcome home"?
Mom won't welcome me home
I'M SORRY
Sensei, Mom said it was shameful
WHAT SHOULD I DO IF THEY SAY THAT I HAVE MADE YOU WRITE THIS?
SHAMEFUL!

OH, FUYOU!
This person was our classroom teacher till the last year
WHAT ARE YOU DOING IN A PLACE LIKE THIS?
I READ THE NEWS-PAPER
IT WAS A GOOD ESSAY
BECAUSE IT WAS A LIE, AFTER ALL

SENSEI, YOU KNOW ABOUT MY MOM, RIGHT? BECAUSE YOU WERE OUR CLASSROOM TEACHER
LIE?
YES
SO YOU UNDERSTAND THAT IT IS ALL LIES
HMPH
I WONDER IF IT IS LIE
BECAUSE I THINK IT WAS AN HONEST ESSAY
WHEN I READ IT, IT FEELS AS IF YOU ARE DESPERATELY TELLING YOUR MOM TO LOOK YOUR WAY
I DON'T FELL THAT WAY!
WELL, BUT YOU USED SOME OTHER PERSON AS YOUR MODEL
I WROTE IT LOOKING AT GRANNY
BUT YOU WERE GREATLY TROUBLED WHEN YOU WROTE IT, RIGHT?


YOU THOUGHT IT OVER AND OVER AND IN THE END DECIDED TO WRITE IT THAT WAY
THAT'S WHY YOU THOUGHT A LOT ABOUT IT
AND YOUR MOTHER
AND YOUR FRIENDS' PARENTS AND TEACHERS
WHEN IT IS PUBLISHED IN THE NEWSPAPER, YOUR FRIENDS WILL READ IT

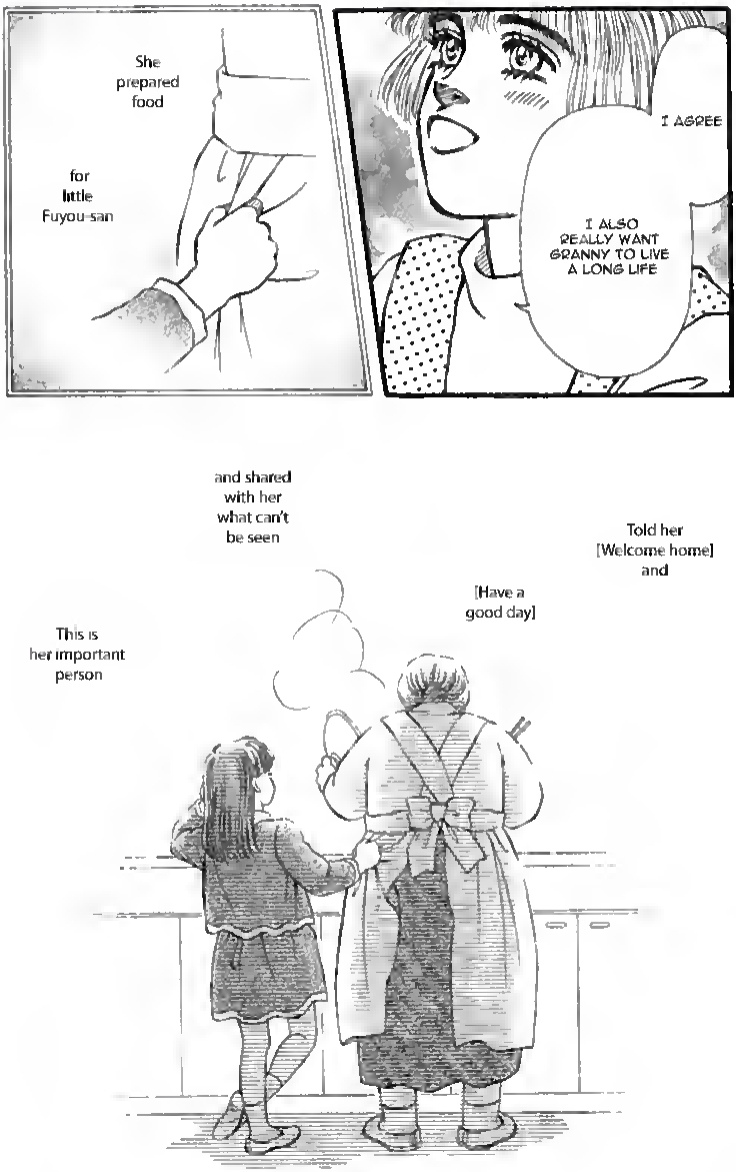
[Though mom is busy and she is turned back to me]

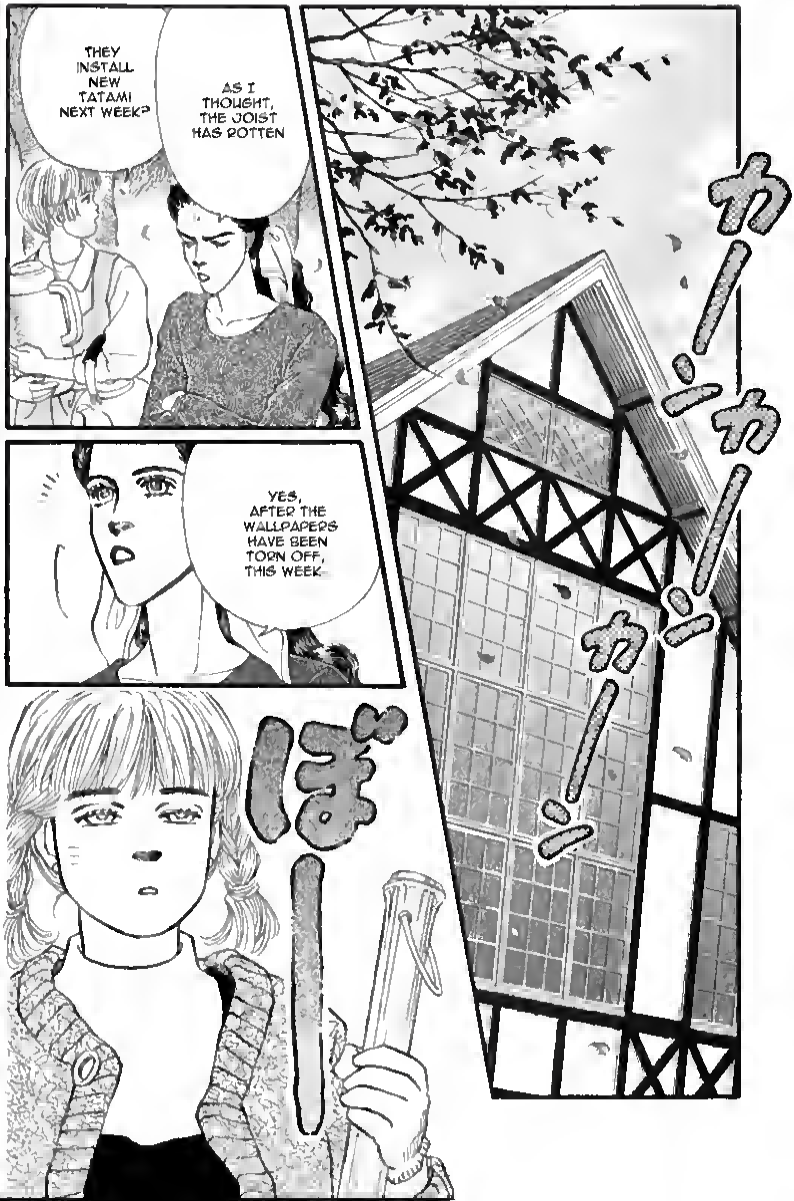

[Mom's apron smells of futon, aired on the sun]
[If I call her, she will look my way]

THAT GRANNY, I THOUGH SHE HAD THROWN IT AWAY
HOW WONDERFUL THAT SHE KEPT IT!
WHEN GRANNY COMES HOME, I WILL SAY MY THANKS TO HER
BUT IF WE SPEAK ABOUT GRANNY
THIS ROOM IS IN A GREAT NEED OF REPAIR

ALRIGHT! WHILE WE ARE AT CLEANING, LET'S DO IT!
EH?
THE OLD PEOPLE ARE SO,
MY GRANDMA WAS THE SAME
HOW MANY TIMES HAVE I TOLD HER TO MAKE THE INTERIOR REPAIRS,
BUT SHE WOULD ALWAYS ANSWER [WHAT A WASTE!]
IT'S NOT GOOD TO DO IT WITHOUT GRANNY'S PERMISSION
IT WOULD BE BETTER TO ASK HER...
WAIT, WAIT, FUYOU-SAN, WAIT A MOMENT!
LET'S CALL A CARPENTER
IT WOULD BE AWFUL IF HER FOOT GETS CAUGHT IN THE PLASTERED TATAMI AND SHE SUDDENLY DIES
YURI-CHAN, DON'T UNDERESTIMATE GRANNY

IT'S TERRIBLE AND WILL YOU BE ABLE TO DISCUSS IT?
HOWEVER GRANNY BELIEVES THAT IT WILL BE OK FOR ANOTHER 30 YEARS
THIS TATAMI WAS INSTALLED ALREADY 30 YEARS AGO
AND SINCE THEN NOT EVEN ONCE IT HAS BEEN REPLACED
BUT EVEN IF WE LEAVE THE TATAMI FOR ANOTHER 30 YEARS, I DON'T KNOW WHETHER GRANNY WILL STAY SO LONG
I KNOW SHE WILL TELL THAT'S BECAUSE THAT TATAMI WAS INSTALLED BY MY GRANDMOTHER
..PROBABLY NOT...
IT'S OK TO TREAT THINGS CAREFULLY
BUT SHE HAS TO TAKE CARE OF HERSELF AT LEAST A LITTLE


She prepared food
for little Fuyou-san
I AGREE
I ALSO REALLY WANT GRANNY TO LIVE A LONG LIFE
and shared with her what can't be seen
Told her [Welcome home] and
[Have a good day]
This is her important person


THEY INSTALL NEW TATAMI NEXT WEEK?
AS I THOUGHT, THE JOIST HAS ROTTEN
YES, AFTER THE WALLPAPERS HAVE BEEN TORN OFF, THIS WEEK
カ！
カ！
カ！
ぼ！

EHH?
SO SHE DOES NOT SLEEP AT NIGHT
SHE IS DOING HER BEST TO STOP SNORING,
Stare~
WHAT'S WITH HER?
Simply standing—>
WHAT A RECKLESS FAMILY ALWAYS DOING ITS BEST!
THAT'S WHAT HAPPENS IF YOU DON'T SLEEP PROPERLY
WELL, YOU WON'T SNORE IF YOU DON'T SLEEP, BUT
DON'T WORRY, HER EYES ARE SLEEPING ALREADY
IT'S BAD FOR HER HEALTH, AND IT WOULD BE BETTER IF SHE STOPPED SOON
YUKIMUSHI ARE FLYING
IT HAS BECOME COLDER

Yukimushi (snow bugs) – in Hokkaido when these bugs appear that means it is going to snow in 1 or 2 weeks.

IT'S COLD OUTDOORS,
BUT JUST BY LOOKING AT SUCH EMPTY ROOM, I GET CHILLED TO THE BONE
IT'S GOOD THAT SHE IS NOT HERE AT THE MOMENT
IF GRANNY HAS TO DO IT, HER LOWER BACK WOULD BE AGAIN IN BAD CONDITION
THE REPAIRERS ASK WHAT TO DO WITH THE RIPPED OFF FLOORBOARDS?
WE DON'T NEED THE OLD ONES, SO IT'S OK TO THROW THEM
OK
WE DON'T NEED
THE OLD ONES!!

I'M TELLING YOU NOT TO SHOUT HERE
THE OLD ONES
LOOK, YOU ARE HALF-ASLEEP, YOU SHOULD GO AND SLEEP
AH
WHERE ARE YOU SHOUTING AT? REPAIRERS ARE THAT WAY, AREN'T THEY?
GRANNY!
EH?!

WHAT? YOU HAVE BEEN DISCHARGED FROM HOSPITAL?
FUYOU -SAN!
WE TOUCHED ONLY WALLPAPERS AND TATAMI!
BECAUSE TATAMI HAS ROTTEN AND IT WAS DANGEROUS
YOU DON'T NEED THE OLD ONES
I SEE
EH?!
THANK YOU FOR BEARING WITH ME FOR A LONG TIME

はっ
GRANNY?! IT'S MISUNDERSTANDING ...
すたたたた…
At that moment out of the corner of my eyes
I saw something extraordinary
GRANNY!

WHERE DO YOU THINK YOU ARE GOING?
YOU KNOW VERY WELL THAT THIS WAS A MISUNDERSTANDING
I KNOW
THEN WHY?
I HAVE GROWN OLD, AND MY BODY DOESN'T LISTEN TO ME
I CAN HARDLY BE HELPFUL FOR YOU ALL
NEVERTHELESS, YOU CONCERN YOURSELF WITH ME AND IT'S WASTEFUL
I DON'T WANT TO CAUSE YOU TROUBLE

IT'S NOT A LAUGHING MATTER
I WON'T
IF YOU ARE NOT HERE, WHO WILL STOP THAT THOUGHTLESS MOTHER?
EVEN YURI-CHAN WILL BE IN GREAT TROUBLE
HEY!
DON'T WILLFULLY STOP BEING HELPFUL
IT'S INSULTING!
GRANDMOTHER'S TATAMI SERVED FOR 30 YEARS, BUT YOU THOUGHT THAT I WON'T HAVE IT CHANGED FOR YOU?
AND WHY CAN'T YOU ACCEPT THE CHANGED TATAMI IN THE FIRST PLACE?

I WILL TREASURE IT
That day
I saw one more extraordinary thing
UNDER -STOOD
Pat
I RELY ON YOUR WORD
THEY SAY, THE HOSPITAL'S DIRECTOR WAS GRAN'S CLASSMATE
ANGER
OI, THERE IS A CALL FROM THE HOSPITAL, INFORMING THAT A PATIENT SNEAKED AWAY

第42話　日向の作文■おわり

# 名前だ　その1

惜しいことをしたと思うわけだ。吉村明美というのは本名なんである。別にこの名前が嫌いというわけじゃないんだけど　なんでペンネームを考えなかったんだか。せっかく自分で自分に名前をつけるなんて珍しいマネができるチャンスだったのに。　だいたい「うあ、ペンネーム考えてない！」と気づいたのが　デビュー作を持って小学館のロビーに立ってた時だもの。　だれが聞いたって手遅れだと言うよそりゃ。　こうやって　とろい性格にどんどん磨きがかかっちゃうわけだ。

「アケミ」という名前は　今はどうか知らないけど　昔はドラマとか　漫画とかで　派手に悪役をやってたりして、でなきゃエッチな名前として　流通してるフシがあってさ。私なんかは　学校行くと　いきなり　よその組の坊主頭のガキにパンチをくらったりしたもんである。ボヤーっと歩いてると、どこからともなくそいつが走ってきてパンチとともに「おまえは吉村明美だ―！」となる。教えてくんなくっても　知ってるっつーの。